

Posted by u/simoneangela  8 hours ago 

We may have fucked up

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My name is arracka, I am a scientist in service of the Galactic Union Exploratory Fleet, and today marks the beginnings of lab tests in the first contact protocol procedure that has been in effect ever since we stumbled on these jumped up primates. The humans are a pretty standard race. Two legs, two arms, one head and 5(6?) senses. Forward facing eyes, olfactory organ in the middle of the face, and a standard omnivore mouth complement the image of an absolutely average looking species, lacking enough sexual dimorphism to be of true note beyond obvious secondary sexual characteristics. The tests where designed to push a newly contacted species limits to ascertain the risks of annexing or even the simple compatibility with the rest of the galactic union. After all a species whose mind can be shattered at the barest psychic touch is ill adjusted for modern society.

The test are conducted in a big gym-like room to avoid excessive stress induced by being alone with a room full of aliens studying you to skew the results, but it seems that we might have underestimated the sheer sociality of humans. The endurance test where performed at the same time, and this apparently sparked an impromptu competition between the subjects. The results where astonishing! The less physically fit subjects lasted pretty long, reaching 5 minutes of sustained run at sedate pace, roughly the average for non professional athletes of most species, while the more fit subjects lasted upward of 10 minutes, with the best lasting an incredible 1 hour and 50 minutes! Granted, the subject history suggested that her morning routine lasted 45 minutes so the result was not entirely unexpected, but this result certainly raised our expectations for the humans in the physical department. It was pretty clear that they had absolutely no talent in the arcane, as every ounce of potential was poured in the physical body. It also was an almost predictable result, as the entire sector around the humans was devoid of any arcane energy, so we where expecting some strange quirk of evolution due to the environment, but nothing this extreme.

The rest of the physical test where conducted in a similar atmosphere as the first, the awe at seeing records casually shattered not a thing easily concealed.

The true problem sprung up when we began testing for arcane talent. It was obvious for us what the results would be, but protocol was protocol, and they where the last test for a reason. The arcane was a parallel dimension, overlapping our own, filled to the brim of unstable arcane energy, that was harnessed by talented few to shape reality and bend physics.

Now, to understand the insanity that went down that day, I have to clarify something. The arcane, or psychic energy as it's called by some, is an intrinsic part of modern society. Almost anyone has at least enough arcane talent to brush the psychic body of nearby sapients, and it is in fact considered by many to be rude to not do that, as it adds truthfulness and trust in a conversation. It is something often done automatically, and something that me and my colleagues had to consciously refrain from doing with the humans.

The most basic arcane talent test involved an arcanist to connect their mind space to the subject, to verify the presence of the connection that would be necessary for even the lowest form of arcane manipulation, the brushing I was talking earlier about. The result of the first test was completely unexpected. The humans had yes a connection to the arcane, but no arcane energy seemed to flow. Their mindspace was completely devoid of arcane energy, but there was a strange secondary connection that seemed to go everywhere and nowhere at the same time that made us pause.

The procedure for this situation was to test the reaction to an influx of arcane energy, but the secondary connection made us weary. Was it the true reason behind the absolute absence of arcane in humans? Was it something related to their bodies? The hesitation must have been more than clear because the subjects began to grow agitated with our conferring over the results.

"Doc is everything alright? This dude didn't give me instant brain cancer or something right?" Mike, the current subject, said, looking worriedly to the huddle of nerds to the side of him conferring over a screen. "What? Oh no don't worry humans, arcane energy does not affect sapient minds and bodies, they are protected by the very connection that allows the arcane to be channeled. We were merely puzzled by your species apparent lack of ability to utilize arcane even in the presence of such a sturdy looking connection." I responded quickly, patting down the coat that was ruffled in the group huddle that followed the strange observation. "In fact it seems like you have a second connection, though we don't have the faintest idea to where." I continued, quite embarrassed at this point of our evident lack of conclusions. "Hu" muttered Mike, "I guess even alien scientists don't have all the answers." The preparation for the arcane contact test was minimal, requiring only the arcanist and subject to hold hands and for the arcanist a bit of concentration. The result was so outside of the expectations that it took us a good 3 hours to understand what happened, and a couple more to come to terms with it.

You see, humans, apparently, are a peculiar type of hive mind. They have a single psychic body, shared with every human alive, and independent mind spaces, kind of like a billion headed hydra. The terrifying result of this is an almost omnipotent being, deprived of the one thing it needed to exert its influence on our reality by its birth that drained the entire sector of arcane energy to form itself from the psychic bodies of the then barely sentient humans. This isolation from the arcane allowed the humans to live quietly up to now, but this contact that was made then unlocked something inside of them, as the sector is now incredibly dense in arcane, second only to the sector around Saggitarium-A.

It's been three local days now, and the humans... when we arrived they were on the cusp of interplanetary colonization. Now, there is a 3 kilometer thick ring around terra, and they apparently merged more with their psychic body, achieving a state of near species wide comprehension.

I'm sure now. We fucked up.